

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 02976 311143Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
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O R 311140Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9305  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY BONN

S E C R E T PARIS 02976

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR EC FR  
SUBJECT: PROPOSED EC-9 DECLARATION ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: (A) STATE 20975; (B) STATE 20956

1. WE CARRIED OUT REFTEL (A) INSTRUCTION EARLY MONDAY MORNING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER'S DIRECTOR OF CABINET MAURICE ULRICH, WHO PROMISED TO INFORM DE GUIRINGAUD PRIOR TO LATTER'S DEPARTURE FOR LONDON EC-9 MINISTERIAL.
2. WE FOCUSED ON DELICACY AND POTENTIAL PROBLEMS OF THREE POINTS IN EC-9 DECLARATION, THE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PALESTINIANS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND WITH THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A STATE. ULRICH SAID THE ELIMINATION OF THESE THREE ELEMENTS WOULD MAKE ANY EC-9 DECLARATION COMPLETELY BLAND. HE ASSUMED, THEREFORE, THAT USG WOULD FEEL MUCH BETTER IF THERE WERE NO DECLARATION AT ALL AT THIS TIME. WE REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE IMPENDING DIPLOMACY OF SECRETARY VANCE, SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM AND FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD.

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3. WITH RESPECT TO PARTICIPATION OF PALESTINIANS IN GENEVA CONFERENCE, ULRICH SAID GOF WAS ENCOURAGED TO INCLUDE THIS IN AN EC-9 DECLARATION BY RECENT STATEMENT BY YAMANI WHICH CALLED FOR UNAMBIGUOUS PARTICIPATION BY PLO. WE STRESSED THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF SADAT AND THE SYRIANS FOR THIS ASPECT OF THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS,

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SAUDIS NOTWITHSTANDING.

4. AFTER TAKING NOTE OF OUR ARGUMENTS, ULRICH STATED WHAT IS CLEARLY THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM FROM THE FRENCH POINT OF VIEW. HE SAID, "IF THE EC-9 CONTINUES TO BE QUIET OR MAKE ONLY BLAND STATEMENTS, THEN EUROPE WILL BE TOTALLY EXCLUDED FROM THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST." WE ASSURED HIM THAT THE USG'S FIRST PRIORITY IS TO FIND A SOLUTION, NOT TO EXCLUDE POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS TO A SOLUTION, ESPECIALLY THE EUROPEANS. FROM FOREGOING, WE ASSUME GOF IS PROBABLY KEY STIMULATOR OF EC-9 DECLARATION.

5. COMMENT: THE IDEA OF FRANCE'S PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, DERIVED FROM ITS HISTORICAL PRESENCE AND OIL DEPENDENCE, CONTINUES TO BE A MAJOR ELEMENT OF GISCARD'S FOREIGN POLICY. HOWEVER, FOR PAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS FRENCH HAVE BEEN REASONABLE ABOUT AVOIDING ACTIONS OR STATEMENTS WHICH WOULD TEND TO UNDERMINE USG EFFORTS. WE HAVE FEELING THAT DE GUIRINGAUD WILL CONTINUE THIS PRUDENT POLICY. THE PRESSURE FOR FRANCE TO POKE ITS FOOT THROUGH THE DOOR NEVERTHELESS COMES RIGHT FROM THE TOP.  
RUSH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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